

July 27, 2009

New Advisory Opinion

On Thursday, July 23, the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board met and voted on one new Advisory Opinion. Click the AO number below to read the full opinion.

[AO 2009-6, Routine Gift Exchanges Between Supervisors and Subordinates](#)

The Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board concluded that the value of gifts between supervisors and subordinates in state service (limited to \$99.99 per gift per § 1-84 (p)), should be determined first by the actual cost to the donor in a marketplace transaction. If such a transaction did not occur, the value equals the fair market value of the item if the same or similar item were to be purchased in a marketplace transaction. Should that method not apply, the recipient may use any reasonable method to determine the gift's value. If the value of the gift is indeterminable and is not clearly insignificant, (market value of less than \$10), the gift is not permissible.

Further, the Board concluded that gifts between supervisors and subordinates, if provided on multiple occasions in separate transactions, shall be considered multiple gifts, each with its own value and \$99.99 limit.

Annual Report and Audit Results for Statements of Financial Interests (SFIs)

This month, the OSE released two reports regarding the SFIs:

- The [Annual Report on 2008 Financial Disclosure Statements](#) provides statistics from the online filing system on filers and their information.
- The [Audit Report](#) is based on the randomly-selected reports of 5% of required filers.

In 2009, 77% of filers used the new online filing system in comparison to 66% the previous year. According to a recent investigative report released by the Washington-based Center for Public Integrity, Connecticut now ranks 12th in the nation for disclosure by officials, up from 15th in an earlier report as a result of the new online filing system.

SFI List Management

Thank you to the liaisons who attended one of recent training sessions on the online management of agency designated filer lists. All of those with list management responsibilities should now have a user name and password, and should be working in the system, updating the lists as changes occur. Don't forget to edit those filers who have recently retired!